

**WILLIAMSBURG CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
APRIL 10, 2006**

The Williamsburg City Council held a work session on April 10, 2006, at 2:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Stryker Building.

**ATTENDANCE**

Present were Ms. Zeidler, Messrs. Haulman, Scruggs, Chohany and Freiling. Also present were City Manager Tuttle, City Attorney Phillips, Assistant City Attorney Workman, and City Clerk Crist.

Staff Attending: Assistant City Manager Miller, Economic Development Director DeWitt, and Department Heads Serra, Nester and Weiler.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Zeidler called the meeting to order.

**OPEN FORUM**

Mayor Zeidler asked for public comment.

**David Kranbuehl, 201 Harrison Avenue**, addressed Council regarding CIP priorities. He presented the City Manager and Council with a copy of the Planning Commission's memorandum following its review of the proposed Five Year Capital Improvement Program. He stressed that a lot of citizen participation went into the review and the importance of sidewalk improvements as a priority, particularly the sidewalks on Richmond Road and Capitol Landing Road. This will serve to make the city more attractive to visitors, residents, and better for the economy. Infrastructure is key.

**Fredricka J. Teute, 511 Newport Avenue**, addressed Council regarding sidewalk safety. The situation at the Newport Avenue and Griffin Avenue corridor is dangerous and a sidewalk is needed for this pedestrian corridor. The hill makes it particularly dangerous and there is nowhere to walk. Children live in this neighborhood. She requested that the city assume financial responsibility for construction of the sidewalk; this corridor has heavy non-residential use and this is not a neighborhood issue. People should be encouraged to walk because of environmental and health issues.

**Terrence Wehle, 4012 Harriet Tubman Drive**, addressed the proposed development on the vacant property near Crispus Attucks owned by the Williamsburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority. He thanked Mr. Freiling and Mr. Scruggs for telling him about this meeting. He recently attended a Housing Authority meeting regarding a proposed office building, outdoor shed, and parking lot on the vacant lot. Mr. Wehle read a petition signed by residents and presented a copy to Council (attached). The petition proposes the land be preserved as green space or a city park, and opposes the proposed development plan on Scotland Street. Petitioners asked that Council consider their concerns and that the proposed development be debated before any decisions are made.

**Debbie Keene, 718 Jamestown Road, B&B owner**, requested a text change to the Draft Comprehensive Plan for B&Bs to be permitted to rent ten guest rooms instead of the current four rooms. Two years ago, she and her husband were told to wait for the

revision of the Comprehensive Plan. They have attended numerous PC meetings, work sessions and public forums regarding the Comprehensive Plan Update over the past two years. They have just learned that the Comp Plan draft does not enable them to increase the number of room rentals in B&Bs, and that it was recommended that the B&B issue will be discussed again in August, after Council adopts the Comp Plan. She reviewed the changes they would like to see in the text of the Comp Plan. She noted that their business has the clientele to support more guest rooms. They are not asking for an increase in the number of B&B licenses. There are over nine B&Bs on the market at this time. If there are other issues regarding B&Bs that need discussion, there should be a comprehensive study commissioned after the Comp Plan adoption. The current code does an outstanding job of monitoring B&Bs with the exception of the number of guest rooms. She asked what Council's feelings are on this matter, that a text change be included in the drafted Comp Plan so that they can proceed, and that Council look at this matter and proceed in their favor.

**Lauren Cohn, Graduate Student and Student Teacher at Lafayette High School,** invited Council members to attend "*Día de la Comunidad*" (Community Day) at the James City/Williamsburg Community Center on Longhill Road, April 23, 2006, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., to celebrate the Latino culture and speak Spanish with your neighbors. Ms. Cohn said that her students developed a website of resources for Spanish-speaking people. She hoped that this will be an annual event.

No one else wished to speak. The session was closed.

Sidewalks: Mayor Zeidler asked that Mr. Tuttle provide Council with any additional information regarding sidewalks that is not included in the proposed budget before the April 13 meeting.

WRHA Property/Project: Mr. Tuttle clarified that the city and the Housing Authority have discussed construction of an office building on the Authority's land. No decision has been made at this time, and review has not begun. Mr. Haulman said this is a decision by the Housing Authority and a decision by the city. There will be multiple opportunities for discussion. The Authority owns the property under HUD restrictions. The Mayor commented that it was good to hear from the neighborhood at this early date.

## **BACKGROUND PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

### **Overview of W/JCC FY07 School Budget—Superintendent Gary Mathews and Members of the W/JCC School Board**

Mayor Zeidler welcomed and recognized Mr. Mathews and members of the School Board John Alewynse, Elise Emanuel, Mary Ann Maimone, Ruth Larson, and Denise Koch. Dr. Jeffrey Smith and Scott Burckbuchler

Ms. Koch began the Powerpoint presentation regarding the FY 2006-2007 School Board Proposed Education Plan and Budget (attached). She reviewed the three primary phases in the budget development process: the Superintendent's Proposed Budget, the School Board's proposed Budget, and the School Board's Adopted Budget.

Superintendent Mathews reviewed the Operating Budget Goals (attached), and noted that this is a time of significant growth for the schools. He thanked Mr. Tuttle and Mr. Serra for their work on the budget.

Scott Burckbuchler, Finance Director, explained how the budget of \$99,826,447 would be spent. Funds will be adjusted as necessary to reflect the Governor's proposed State budget. He addressed the goals and highlights outlined in the presentation, pages 6-10 (attached), and explained the specific actions needed to accomplish the goals. Mr. Burckbuchler said that the content of the FY 2006/2007 Budget Book is available on-line at the schools' website.

Mayor Zeidler thanked the Superintendent and School Board members for the presentation. She noted that the city's proposed budget includes the funding for schools.

Council members, Mr. Mathews, and board members discussed:

1. Competitive teacher salaries.
2. Class size.
3. Funding for preschool programs and initiatives.
4. The growth in student population that is driving the increase in the school budget.
5. The cost per student for education is now \$10,275 per year, which is comparable with other school systems.
6. Initiatives to address diversity in the school population.
7. ESL is an emerging issue/development of a Comprehensive Plan.
8. Planning for increased fuel costs for buses. Estimated at \$2.50 per gallon.
9. The source of teachers for new schools.
10. Upcoming teacher retirements will be a challenge.
11. Offering a second language course in early school years.
12. Redistricting. Ms. Koch reported on the work of the Redistricting Committee, and said that the School Board's decision regarding this matter will be made at the June meeting.

Mr. Haulman said that the City of Williamsburg and James City County have a long history of mutual cooperation for an outstanding school system. It is in both jurisdictions interest to ensure this relationship continues. The city, county, schools, and community, must make a renewed effort to ensure communications continue, to have a wide-range of input and dealing honestly and openly with everyone, and to ensure the best possible education for all of our children.

Ms. Koch thanked the Mayor, City Council, and her colleagues. She echoed Mr. Haulman's comments.

**Comprehensive Plan, Update—Reed Nester, Planning Director**

Reference for this item was the Comprehensive Plan Schedule dated April 6, 2006, prepared by Mr. Nester.

Mayor Zeidler congratulated Mr. Nester for preparation of the draft plan which was more clear and concise. Mr. Nester noted that the plan was 98% complete. At today's 37<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission work session, members will continue their work on the plan.

Mr. Nester reviewed the schedules for the adoption and implementation of the Plan and the review process for eight major areas of the Zoning Ordinance, which will include public hearings by the Planning Commission and City Council before implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. Planning Commission work sessions and public hearings on the Zoning Changes will begin in August following presentation of the Plan to Council in July.

Mr. Nester said that the issue of regulations for room rentals to visitors (B&Bs) has been moved up on the implementation schedule for August. He reviewed the language currently in the draft Comp Plan. Staff would need to do an extensive analysis to determine what changes to the regulations are needed before Planning Commission review.

Council discussed the possibility of starting review of the B&B regulations sooner. Mr. Nester said that staff has not yet done the analysis on this issue, but some of the possible options would be to apply for a special exception process by the Board of Zoning Appeals or a special use permit requiring approval by City Council. If an increase in the number of guest rooms were considered, other issues would have to be addressed such as the amount of parking, compatibility with residential neighborhoods, and equitable treatment of all properties on residential corridors.

Mr. Nester said the Draft Comprehensive Plan is available on the city's website, at the Library and Planning Department. The public is welcomed to attend any of the Planning Commission meetings to address issues in the draft Comp Plan.

Mr. Scruggs disclosed that he and his wife are the owners of a ten-room hotel in the downtown area.

Mr. Nester replied to Mr. Scruggs that each Zoning Ordinance change will be implemented individually, but he has tried to break up the Zoning Ordinance in sections for ease of review. He explained the public review process for the zoning text change regarding the LB-2 District. Mr. Nester replied to Mr. Freiling that the number of rooms

is not usually addressed in the Comprehensive Plan, but is detailed in the Zoning Ordinance. The draft Comp Plan states that the number of rooms should be addressed based on certain criteria in the Zoning Ordinance.

Mr. Chohany, being sensitive to the impact of the Comprehensive Plan review process on the Keene B&B, urged City Council to move along the review of the number of guest rooms allowed in a bed and breakfast establishment.

Mr. Haulman recognized and appreciated the tremendous amount of work that staff and the Planning Commission have put in to the Comprehensive Plan review process. Mr. Nester noted that this was the first time staff has done the draft without a consultant.

Council members appreciated staff's work and the schedule provided.

#### **Pandemic Flu Readiness—Fire Chief Weiler, Emergency Management Coordinator**

Fire Chief Weiler attended the Virginia Pandemic Influenza Summit last month and reported that the general thinking is that we should be "better safe than sorry." A pandemic is caused by a new Influenza A virus that most people have never been exposed to, so everyone is susceptible, and often causes a more serious disease, death, social disruption, and economic loss. No one can predict when a pandemic might occur and experts are watching the Avian (bird) Flu situation. Virginia developed a draft pandemic flu plan in 2002 and the Virginia Department of Health is leading public information efforts to raise awareness of this issue.

Should there be an outbreak, local governments will have much to consider such as the development of a medical surge plan, how to handle civil unrest, a contingency plan for major illness, policies for loss of work time, and health centers to handle inoculations. Communication is key and Emergency Services officials will continue to work cooperatively within our region on this important issue.

Mayor Zeidler and Council members appreciated the Chief's report and the information about readiness.

#### **Preview of March 9, 2006 Council Meeting**

No additional information was requested.

#### **City Council Communications**

Resignation—Planning Commission: Mayor Zeidler reported that Mr. Charles Friend has resigned with regret from the Commission, and that she accepted his resignation with regret. She asked the Clerk to prepare a letter thanking him for his years of service.

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Eastern State Hospital: Mr. Scruggs provided background about the bill in the State Legislature to seek funding to privatize Eastern State Hospital. Williamsburg has had strong ties to the Hospital for over 200 years and urges the state not to engage in privatization. Many of the patients there are extremely vulnerable and cannot advocate for themselves. City Council asked that staff prepare a resolution opposing efforts to transfer Eastern State Hospital to the private sector for Council's consideration. The resolution will be sent to the Governor and legislature.

Mayor Zeidler noted that Council has in the past supported Eastern State Hospital and that people who are there get the best care by the Commonwealth. Mr. Freiling hoped that as the resolution is crafted that we keep in the forefront the suggestion that whatever can be done to maintain and enhance the comprehensive quality of services at the hospital is the ultimate goal of the community and the reason for this support. If we take a stand, the purpose of support for comprehensive mental health care should be stated.

#### **Schedule of Meetings: April 2006**

Council members received a copy of the meeting/event calendar for April 2006.

#### **OPEN FORUM**

Mayor Zeidler asked for public comment.

No one wished to speak. The session was closed.

#### Boards and Commissions:

Mayor Zeidler asked Ms. Crist to update the list of board and commission expirations and to provide Council members with any applications on file. Ms. Crist said that applications were kept on file for a period of two years. Should an applicant wish to update his application for further consideration at the two year mark, they should contact the clerk.

The meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Approved: May 11, 2006

Jeanne Zeidler, Mayor

Attest: Shelia Y. Crist, Clerk of Council